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*Sanitary report from Rio de Janeiro.*

I have the honor to transmit to you the official report for the week ended May 18.

There were 263 deaths from all causes, an increase of 15 as compared with the preceding week; 17 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, an increase of 5; 3 deaths from yellow fever, a decrease of 6; 5 deaths from small-pox, an increase of 3; 2 deaths from typhoid fever, a decrease of 2; no deaths from diphtheria, 1 before; 2 deaths from beriberi, an increase of 1, and 54 deaths from tuberculosis, an increase of 4.

*Bills of health.*

Since last report the following-named ship has been inspected and received bill of health of this office: May 27, steamship *Wordsworth*, Belgian, for New York.

Respectfully,  
 W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*  
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

## BRITISH HONDURAS.

*Report from Belize—Fruit port.*

BELIZE, BRITISH HONDURAS, *June 22, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report excellent health conditions in this port. Only 1 death—from apoplexy—reported during the week. The steamer *Stillwater* (Galt) clears for New Orleans this a. m., 32 in crew, 1 passenger, cargo, fruit and mail. The steamer *Managua* (Gundersen) also clears this a. m. for Mobile, Ala.; 16 in crew, 3 passengers, cargo, fruit. Ten pieces disinfected.

Respectfully,  
 NORWOOD K. VANCE,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*  
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Dead fish and disease.*

BELIZE, BRITISH HONDURAS, *June 21, 1900.*

SIR: I wish to trespass on your valuable time and give you some of my observations made in this country, recalled by the article in the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS of May 25, lent me by Dr. Vance, on pages 1312 and 1313, headed by propagation of plague by infected fish, extracts from local journals of Japan, April 24.

I was stationed at Santa Marta, United States of Colombia, in 1893. There were in November and December, 1892, millions of dead fish all over the coast. No one could account for the phenomenon, as it was an unusual occurrence. The natives all over the coast and in the interior of Rio Frio section live principally on fish dried in the sun and shipped in large quantities. In April, of 1893, when I arrived, the country was just recovering from an epidemic of glandular swellings in all parts of the body. My diagnosis was that it came from using purely a fish diet, not attributing this to the dead fish of three months previous. There were very few fatal cases, although many cases were very bad. After reading the article above-mentioned, it recalls a circumstance happening here at Belize in October and November, 1899. There

was a deluge of dead fish floating all over this coast, even as far up as Cozumel Islands, which was reported by the different captains of sailing craft coming in to Belize. No one could account for the phenomenon, not having seen a like circumstance. The Colombia experience all came back to my mind as I left on November 13; had heard of no bad effects occurring in the country and on the coast. Sometime during the month of February or March I saw where you reported a case of plague at Cozumel. Since my return to Belize I made inquiries and found the same conditions which existed in the northern portion of this colony near the seacoast as I experienced in Colombia in 1893. I explained to the physicians here my experience, and they concluded that I was right—too much of a fish diet. There the matter rested until I read the article above-mentioned; and I must say I think there is something in it and it is worth consideration. If you have more articles on this subject please forward the same, or copies, to my address.

Respectfully,  
The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

C. W. KNIGHT, M. D.

COLOMBIA.

*Report from Bocas del Toro—Fruit port.*

BOCAS DEL TORO, COLOMBIA, *June 22, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit report for the week ended June 22, 1900.

The following vessels have been inspected and cleared: June 16, steamship *Hispania*, Frockberg; 21 crew; no passengers; New Orleans via port Limon, Costa Rica; steamship *Yumuri*, Boe; 16 crew; 1 passenger; Mobile; 3 pieces of baggage; steamship *Harold*, Utne; 17 crew; 9 passengers; Mobile; 24 pieces of baggage. June 20, steamship *Banes*, Tronstad; 16 crew; 1 passenger; Mobile; 9 pieces of baggage; steamship, *Colombia*; Hirtzberg; 17 crew; 1 passenger; Mobile; 2 pieces of baggage. June 22, steamship *Douglas*, Eriksen; 24 crew; 7 passengers; Mobile; 13 pieces of baggage.

The health and sanitary conditions of Bocas and vicinity are very good. No deaths have been reported to me during the week.

Respectfully,  
HERMAN B. MOHR,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Report on Coclet.*

BOCAS DEL TORO, COLOMBIA, *June 22, 1900.*

SIR: In reply to your communication of May 28, referring to information desired by the health officer at Mobile, Ala., with regard to Coclet, Colombia, and authorizing me to visit Coclet if possible, I have the honor to state that I was on my way to make such inspection when the accident occurred to me which I have reported.

The steamship *Douglas* arrived here on the 16th instant, having on board Dr. M. J. Bancroft, on his way to Coclet as sanitary inspector for the quarantine board of Mobile Bay. Dr. Bancroft proceeded to Coclet with the steamship *Douglas*, having on board a disinfected gang of laborers for loading bananas at that point. At my request, Dr. Bancroft makes a report of the place. He says: